allocated to a service of his/her higher preference without the benefit of reservation is not adjusted against a reserved vacancy. However, in other cases, where although such candidate has been recommended in the General Merit List but he can be allocated to the service of his/her higher preference only if he/she is given the benefit of such reservation for purposes of service allocation then he/she is given that benefit and adjusted against a reserved vacancy. This principle/practice of service allocation adopted in the context of the Civil Services Examinations have been scruitinized and upheld by the CAT, Hyderabad Bench (A. Murali Manohar and N. Vijaya Bhaskar) and CAT, Principal Bench, New Delhi (Satya Prakash, Anil Kumar and Basant Kumar). All claims for allocation of service on the basis of the recommendation of UPSC have been attended upto the CSE 1998 and there is no candidate who is as such awaiting appointment.

Further, in view of the above practice followed by the Government in the matter of service allocation, certain candidates belonging to the reserved category recommended on the basis of CSE-1994 to CSE-1998 could not be allocated to a service/post due to non-availability of vacancy/post in their turn under the category. The details of such candidates are given below:

Year of CSE	Number and category of candidates who could not be allocated to a service/post due to non-availability of vacancy/post in their turn under the category
1994	15 Other Backward Classes
1995	4 Other Backward Classes
1996	21 Other backward Classes
1997	17 Other Backward Classes & 1 Scheduled Tribe
1998	8 Other Backward Classes

The claims of these candidates for appointment have been considered and disposed off through detailed speaking orders issued in accordance with the Examination Rules as well as relevant Court Rulings.

Central Government Pension Beneficiaries

4962. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Government pension beneficiaries till October, 1999;

(b) whether there is any delay in the implementation of pay revision recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTSMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There is an estimated number of about 38 lakh Central Government pensioners belonging to the Defence Services, Railways, P & T and Central Government Departments. No centralised records are maintained in this Ministry regarding details of pensioners and pension payments because the functions of sanction, revision and disbursement of pension have been fully decentralised to the respective Departments.

(b) and (c) Delays in revision of pension cases following acceptance of recommendations of the 5th Pay Commission have been reported by a number of Departments. The delays, according to the Departments, have occurred owing to non-receipt of applications from pensioners for revision of pension, incomplete information received by the Department and non-availability of relevant records of old pensioners. This Ministry has been periodically reviewing the situation in inter-departmental meetings and have issued instructions to various Departments to set up monitoring mechanism to expedite revision of pension cases.

Pension Reforms in the Country

4963. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering proposals to introduce any broad based pension reforms in the country;

(b) if so, the details of proposals received/under consideration of Government and action taken thereon; and

(c) what is the present status of fresh initiatives taken by Government to evolve New Pension Policy to provide safety net to maximum working persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS